English Toolkit: Indicator 3.1.4

Student Handout: English: Indicator 3.1.4

Goal 3.0 Controlling Language

Expectation 3.1 The student will demonstrate understanding of the nature and structure of language, including grammar concepts and skills, to strengthen control of oral and written language.

Indicator 3.1.4 The student will differentiate grammatically complete sentences from non-sentences.

Assessment Limits:

Identifying sentence fragments

Identifying run-on sentences, including fused sentences and comma splices

Completing inappropriate sentence fragments

Public Release - Selected Response Item - Released in 2009

English Indicator 3.1.4

After seeing a film about secret military codes used during World War II, Anne decided to write an essay about code breaking during that war. Anne's draft requires revisions and edits. Read the draft. Then answer the following item.

Which of these is an incomplete sentence that should be revised?

A. At a safe distance from German air attacks, the estate being a secret location for decoding messages sent by the German army.
B. The keyboard was similar to a German typewriter.
C. Messages also repeated formulaic information.
D. For example, standard greetings followed by a weather report were often the first part of messages.

Correct Answer
A. At a safe distance from German air attacks, the estate being a secret location for decoding messages sent by the German army.

Item

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Handouts

Cryptography[1] at Bletchley Park

[1]In 1938, the British government bought Bletchley Park, a sixty-acre estate about 90 miles north of London. [2]At a safe distance from German air attacks, the estate being a secret location for decoding messages sent by the German army.

[3]The coding machine used by the Germans, called Enigma, was invented in 1922 by a German engineer. [4]The code breakers at Bletchley Park obtained a replica of an Enigma machine in 1939. [5]The keyboard was similar to a German typewriter. [6]A system of parts changed the input letters many times.

[7]The German government assumed that the Enigma's codes were unbreakable. [8]Nonetheless, a number of things helped the cryptographers at Bletchley Park break the code. [9]First, there was a flaw with the Germans' machine. [10]No letter could represent itself in a coded message. [11]For example, the letter "A" could be represented by any other letter except "A." [12]Messages also repeated formulaic information. [13]For example, standard greetings followed by a weather report were often the first part of messages. [14]The workers at Bletchley Park, knowing both the machine's flaw and the formulaic nature of German messages, worked until the code was eventually broken.

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[1] Cryptography: the process of coding or decoding secret messages